



# Idaho



## State & Private Forestry Fact Sheet

### Investment in State's Cooperative Programs:

Program	FY 2010 Final
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	298,800
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management - National Fire Plan	623,000
Forest Legacy	5,910,000
Forest Stewardship	445,781
State Fire Assistance	643,400
State Fire Assistance - National Fire Plan	1,355,440
Urban and Community Forestry	585,824
Volunteer Fire Assistance	84,740
Volunteer Fire Assistance - National Fire Plan	134,330
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,081,315</b>

*This funding is for all entities within the state, not just the State Forester's office.*

The Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) received \$9,342,815 of the funding listed above. This fact sheet reflects cooperative programs administered and implemented through partnerships between IDL, USDA Forest Service, and other private and government entities. These programs promote the health and productivity of Idaho's forests and rural economies. We emphasize timber, forest products, wildlife, water resources, rural economies, and conservation practices.

- Increase cost effectiveness by delivering services through partnerships.
- Increase values through sustained productivity of forests.
- Integrate program efforts to maximize impact and address issues identified in the Idaho State Assessment of Forest Resources and Response Strategy.
- Implement American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) projects in an efficient and timely manner.

### Key Issues:

- Wildfire threats to Idaho's communities and forests in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).
- Forest health concerns: older and dense stands, decreased federal lands management, invasive species, and climate change.
- Declining timber markets and increasing dependence on private lands for timber.
- Biomass utilization.
- Air and water quality in urban areas.

## Forest Facts and Accomplishments:

Selected Facts		FY2010 Accomplishments	
Population	1,293,953	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance (Each)	8,162
Acres of Forest Land	21,430,000	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	6,880
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	1,427,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	5,979
Number of NIPF Landowners	34,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted (Each)	146
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	915,774	State Fire Communities Assisted (Each)	85
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	3,289,303	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	23,696
Number of Rural Fire Departments	250	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions (Acres)	612
Number of Cities And Towns	205	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance (Each)	88
Forest Based Employment	10,300	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance (Each)	790,265
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	3	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance (Hours)	32,003
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	0		

## Program Highlights:

### *Conservation Education*

Partnered with over 170 forestry professionals from multiple entities (natural-resources agencies and forest industries) to fund and facilitate the Idaho State Forestry Contest, which is a field education and forestry skills competition offered to over 400 elementary, middle, and high-school students.

### *Cooperative Fire Protection*

Program funding helps hire, train, and equip firefighters for national deployment. This program supports four interagency dispatch centers and an interagency fire cache, while the “Keep Idaho Green” initiative assists fire prevention cooperatives. The Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) Program provides funding to fire departments in rural communities. In 2010, 64 rural volunteer fire departments received VFA awards totaling \$199,154. All 44

counties have completed their County Wildfire Protection Plans and periodically submit updates to WUI maps, priorities and goals. County groups design and implement hazardous fuels reduction projects to mitigate wildfire threats. To date, 24,673 acres of private land have been treated with National Fire Plan (NFP) funds. In 2010, IDL awarded over \$930,000 of NFP funding for hazardous fuels treatment projects. Funding also supports the Idaho NFP Coordinator position, the Idaho Statewide Wildland Fire Conference, and development and maintenance of the new Idaho Firewise program website.

#### *Forest Health Protection*

Three detection/evaluation surveys were conducted statewide on approximately 2.4 million acres of state and private lands (aerial detection, gypsy moth, and an expanded Douglas-fir tussock moth survey). IDL thinned approximately 120 acres of lodgepole pine in southeastern Idaho to increase resilience to bark beetles. In total, 71 forest health training sessions were held, and 70 technical service visits were made. Overall, 2,486 state and private land managers received direct services from our staff.

#### *Forest Legacy*

In 2010, the state of Idaho used approximately \$4 million of federal funds to purchase its 7th and 8th Forest Legacy Conservation Easements. In January, Idaho purchased a conservation easement on 243 acres near Sandpoint, Idaho. In December, Idaho acquired a conservation easement on 3,727 acres of private forests owned by Forest Capital Partners, LLC. This easement protects both wildlife habitat and working forests in one of the most important big game migration routes in northern Idaho. In 2011, the state will secure 3 more conservation easements on 720 acres in the Idaho panhandle.

#### *Forest Stewardship*

IDL partnered with University of Idaho Extension Forestry to sponsor 12 educational activities at 23 sites and fund the second year of the Master Forest Stewards volunteer program, which provided over 270 hours of forest education to forest landowners. IDL and its partners hosted the Family Forest Landowners & Managers Conference, reaching over 200 private landowners and forest managers, and co-hosted the Idaho/Washington Forest Owners Field Day, providing 29 workshop sessions to over 190 private landowners. Idaho continues to partner with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency to provide technical and funding assistance to forest landowners, facilitating hundreds of acres of forest-improvement activities on private lands.

#### *Urban and Community Forestry*

This program emphasizes the benefit of urban trees beyond aesthetics, with a strong focus on their economic and environmental value. In total, 95 Idaho cities comprising 91% of Idaho's urban population, are actively developing or sustainably managing their community forests. Partnerships with the Idaho Department of Transportation, Rural Conservation Districts, Idaho Nursery & Landscape Association, and Idaho's three investor-owned utilities continue to bolster state program efforts. Idaho currently has 71 Tree Cities USA, 14 of which qualified for a Growth Award.

#### *American Recovery & Reinvestment Act - North Idaho*

This project reduces hazardous fuels in Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, and Kootenai Counties. Now that 1,792 acres of hazardous fuels have been treated to date, 25 communities are more resilient to catastrophic wildfires. Most significantly, 95 full-time equivalent jobs have been created or retained.

#### *American Recovery & Reinvestment Act - Silver Valley*

This project improves forest health and reduces hazardous fuel in Idaho's Silver Valley.

Fifty-one workers thinned and pruned trees on 713 acres in 11 communities to make them more resilient to catastrophic fire.

*American Recovery & Reinvestment Act - Urban Forest Health Improvement - Ada County*

Grants were awarded to seven cities to improve public safety and urban forest health. So far, six companies that hired or retained 5.1 full-time equivalent employees removed approximately 200 hundred high-risk trees and pruned 3,000 trees. The project is 77% complete.

*American Recovery & Reinvestment Act - Urban Forest Health Improvement - Kootenai County*

Grants were awarded to four cities to improve public safety and urban forest health. So far, five companies that hired or retained 3.2 full-time equivalent employees removed approximately 260 high-risk trees and pruned 400 trees. The project is 55% complete.

*Competitive Grant - Forest Analysis*

Initiated a canopy analysis project in the greater Boise area to determine the contribution of tree canopy to air quality, energy conservation, and storm-water mitigation. The project emphasizes modeling potential future benefits of increased canopy to help meet Federal requirements for ozone. Partners include Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, Idaho Power, storm-water managers, county and city planners, and transportation districts.

*Competitive Grant - Silver Valley Restoration and Economic Development*

On September 1, 2010, 34 stakeholders (forest landowners, environmental organizations, agencies, etc.) signed a Declaration of Commitment to support the Shoshone County Forest Health Collaborative. The collaborative focuses on public safety, forest health improvement, biomass utilization, and economic development. This project also protects three communities via Western White Pine thinning/pruning and Hazardous Fuels Treatments.

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